

## **Founding of Lehi**

### **By Alvin Schow**

**Lehi community was founded by the Church. Bishop David Evans was the first Bishop and Lehi was settled by Church members who were emigrants sent here by Brigham Young. And the reason why he had them come to Lehi was that it was a day's travel from Salt Lake to Lehi and then another day's travel from Lehi to Provo.**

**If you will look at the schedule, Brigham Young tried to get a settlement about every day's travel so that when he went to St. George, he could travel one day, stay overnight, travel the next day, stay overnight and had a stopping spot after a day of travel. If you look down the route to St. George and other places, you will see that there were settlements made about that far apart. So Lehi was settled as a stopping spot for the Church leaders to go south.**

**It was first formed on a place called Dry Creek. There was a little more water in it then, than there is now. But Dry Creek has been the principal reason for the settlement in Lehi. They first settled down on Snow Springs. That's down closer to the Lake shore. But the water from that springs was rancid or had some salt in it and so it wasn't very good for drinking. So they didn't settle around Snow Springs.**

**They came up to what we call Dry Creek and settled on the Dry Creek**

that runs down through Lehi now from north of Lehi past the elementary school through the fields to the Saratoga Road and then down on into the Lake.

The water basically comes from the mountains north of Alpine. There are springs up there that Lehi filed on. They still own the rights to them. That's some of the best water, as far as I am concerned, in the state of Utah. Most of the water that came down Dry Creek was from the south slopes of the mountains north of Alpine or above Alpine.

We've had lots of flooding down that Dry Creek bed. Any time there is a major flooding year, that's the thing that has flooded over the years down through the community. And some of us thought that when they built the elementary school where it is up there, that it was the wrong place to put it because it was along Dry Creek. We knew there would be some flooding problems which they had this year.

But that is where Alpine District decided to build the elementary school and they covered the Dry Creek in over there. They made it so that it would go into a big pipe, but that means that when it gets filled up, it floods over on to the school property. That's where the first water was used by Lehi. Now we have the water coming out of those springs that we use for culinary water along with other wells the city has drilled through the area. But that's good water. It comes out of the granite cliffs up above Alpine.